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Report of the Secretary-General*

Addendum

Review of the United Nations Postal Administration

Status of work in the implementation of measures to strengthen the security and safety of United Nations premises

I. Review of the United Nations Postal Administration

A. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to section VI of General Assembly resolution 57/292 of 20 December 2002. In that resolution the General Assembly noted with deep concern the deterioration in the business of the United Nations Postal Administration and requested the Secretary-General to ensure, as a matter of priority, that the downward trend in the business of the Postal Administration be reversed, considering all possible courses of action for the future conduct of its business, and to report thereon to the Assembly in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. A comprehensive review of the Postal Administration's operations has been undertaken with the involvement of an outside consultant specializing in philatelic market operations. A number of recommendations stemming from the review have been or are in the process of being implemented.

* The present report is being issued as scheduled to reflect the latest data available.

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B. Background

2. The United Nations Postal Administration was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 454 (V) of 16 November 1950. A primary objective in creating the Postal Administration was the promotion of the aims and activities of the United Nations to the rest of the world through the issuance of United Nations postal stamps.

3. In March 1951 the United Nations entered into a postal agreement with the United States of America. The agreement provided for the establishment of a United States post office in the United Nations complex to be staffed and operated by the United States Post Office Department (now known as the United States Postal Service) to provide a full range of postal services. Under the terms of the agreement, the United States post office at the Headquarters complex is permitted to sell only stamps that are issued by the United Nations, which are supplied free of charge. Mail bearing United Nations stamps may be mailed only from the United Nations. In the same agreement, the United Nations was authorized to produce and sell United Nations stamps. The agreement also states that the United States post office would be reimbursed for the full value of United Nations stamps used for mail.

4. The first stamp denominated in United States currency was issued on United Nations Day, 24 October 1951. Subsequently, through an agreement entered into with Switzerland in 1969, the United Nations opened a United Nations Postal Administration office in Geneva and launched stamps denominated in Swiss francs. The Geneva office was given jurisdiction of the European market. Following the conclusion of a postal agreement with Austria in 1979, a United Nations Postal Administration office was established in Vienna to serve customers in Austria and Germany, which had hitherto been serviced from Geneva. At present, the United Nations issues stamps denominated in the United States dollar, the Swiss franc and the euro. All three offices service their respective customers through counter sales and by mail and Internet orders. Effective in 2000, the accounting and computer support functions for the two European offices were consolidated in Vienna.

C. Organization and structure

5. The present organizational structure of the United Nations Postal Administration was established by the General Assembly in 1992, with the Global Office at Headquarters coordinating the activities of the three offices and organizing common services such as the design and production of philatelic products and the provision of administrative and financial guidance and control. Day-to-day operational responsibility remained with the three offices. The details of the structure and organization of the Postal Administration are reflected in the chart below.

Structure and organization of the United Nations Postal Administration

D. Performance analysis

6. The gross revenue and expenditure data for the past 25 years, beginning with the biennium 1978-1979, is set out in table 1. The largest profit, of $22.6 million, was achieved in 1980-1981, and the largest loss, amounting to $2.9 million, occurred in 2000-2001. As can be seen in table 1 the Postal Administration has posted profits for 20 of the past 25 years.

Table 1
United Nations Postal Administration performance data, 1978-2003
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Biennium	*Total gross revenue*	*Expenditures*	*Net revenue (loss)*
2002-2003*	14 952.3	14 763.2	189.1
2000-2001	12 586.5	15 485.0	(2 898.5)
1998-1999	20 065.4	18 658.5	1 406.9
1996-1997	21 444.0	20 237.3	1 206.7
1994-1995	22 532.2	24 776.7	(2 244.5)
1992-1993	28 086.7	24 001.8	4 084.9
1990-1991	27 188.7	21 830.9	5 357.8
1988-1989	26 182.5	17 984.3	8 198.2
1986-1987	24 962.8	15 729.5	9 233.3
1984-1985	23 115.5	13 720.8	9 394.7
1982-1983	26 936.6	13 902.6	13 034.0
1980-1981	37 696.2	15 072.9	22 623.3
1978-1979	18 460.4	9 206.6	9 253.8

* Estimate.

7. The revenue pattern is clearly unstable, with revenues displaying sudden drops, of 28.6 per cent, 22 per cent and 37.2 per cent in the bienniums 1982-1983, 1994-1995 and 2000-2001 respectively over previous periods. On the other hand, significant net revenue was realized in the 1980s.

E. Problem analysis

8. While the United Nations Postal Administration is successful in promoting the image of the United Nations, the sustainability of its operations in recent years has been in doubt. It was unable to adapt its operations to the evolving world social and economic environment at a pace that would have ensured its financial viability. The review has indicated that its fundamental problems result from the following four main areas of concern.

9. First, the advent of the electronic age and the spread of the Internet has had a profound impact on the global philatelic market. The increasing use of electronic communications has not only diminished interest in stamps, but it has also presented the new generation with alternative hobbies providing more instantaneous

gratification. This has resulted in a mature philatelic market with an ageing and ever-diminishing customer base. An antecedent consequence is that the philatelic market may be shifting from the more affluent to the developing countries and, as such, stamps denominated in United States dollars, Swiss francs and euros increasingly become prohibitively expensive for collectors.

10. Second, there exists a hidden, yet very serious, liability threat. In the past 25 years, the Postal Administration has sold over $344 million worth of stamps and other philatelic products. The stamps are sold in unused condition (mint stamps) and do not carry any expiry date for redemption (for mailing purposes). Every mint stamp that is sold but not yet utilized for mailing purposes constitutes a contingent liability for the United Nations.

11. In recent years, exceptionally large numbers of postal articles bearing old United Nations stamps with no collection value, some dating from the 1950s, have been delivered to the United Nations for mailing. In the past, only a small percentage of the United Nations stamps sold were actually used for postage by the customers. The percentage of the gross stamp-sale revenue paid to the United States Postal Service in postage charges was 6 per cent in 1980 compared with 18 per cent in 2002. However, it should be noted that in 1980, the United Nations Postal Administration was reimbursing the postal authorities for the full face value of stamps used for postage, while in 2002, the Swiss postal, telegraph and telephone administration (PTT) and the Austrian postal service were reimbursed on the basis of discounted rates due to more favourable agreements. Hence, the real increase in the use of United Nations stamps for postage is considerably higher than the 18 per cent increase may superficially indicate. More importantly, the United Nations is now incurring expenditures for products sold in past periods for which the accounts have been closed. At present, there is no provision in the accounts of the United Nations Postal Administration for such contingent liabilities.

12. Third, the evolution of the United Nations Postal Administration following an ad hoc response to each postal agreement concluded with the postal authorities of the United States, Switzerland and Austria has resulted in duplicative effort in terms of functions and expenditure in a number of operational areas, as can be clearly seen in the chart above. Staff costs constitute the bulk of expenditure, and typically labour costs are the slowest to adjust to changing market conditions. Although some degree of overlap of functions is inevitable, there is significant potential for eliminating duplication.

13. Last, the design and production of philatelic products require a minimum of two years of advance planning and marketing. Therefore, adequate capital must be available in advance of the sale of stamps and the recovery of revenue. However, the current practice of full accounting and the closure of accounts for each biennium hinders the process. Low revenues in any given financial period would therefore result in the non-availability of capital to develop products for the next financial period. Such a system does not allow for business recovery to take place, nor does it allow for the availability of some form of working capital or business reserve that could be used to iron out the peaks and troughs in revenue over time.

14. Based on the findings of the review, measures to improve operations have been identified (see table 2).

Table 2
Measures identified for improving the operations of the United Nations Postal Administration

Recommendation	*Action taken*
1. *Market and customers*	
Investigate opportunities to reach new markets; conduct customer survey and market research.	Being implemented.
2. *Philatelic products*	
Review product lines to produce product profitability analysis.	Being implemented. New products are being launched; a new pricing policy is being developed for implementation where required.
3. *Marketing*	
Develop and implement a detailed marketing plan that clearly sets out all objectives and strategies for an integrated global programme.	Being developed.
Incorporate the Philatelic Bulletin and *Fascination* magazine into one newly designed standardized mailing edition.	Standardization will be implemented in 2004 to ensure common promotion of products to European and United States/Asian markets.
4. *Electronic commerce*	
Develop one integrated web site for all United Nations Postal Administration offices.	To be implemented in 2004.
5. *Postal rates*	
Renegotiate postage rates with host-country postal administrations.	Negotiations are under way.
Demonetize its Austrian schilling stamps and discontinue the exchange into the euro.	Implemented.
6. *Outsourcing considerations*	
Consider outsourcing of some operations.	Investigated through seeking bids; the results were not successful.
7. *Structure*	
Restructure the United Nations Postal Administration into two stamp operations — one in New York and one in Europe.	Being implemented for completion in 2003.
8. *Post office*	
Review dealer sales with a view to deciding on the continuation of discounts.	Presently being analysed; discounts currently suspended.

Recommendation	*Action taken*
9. *Operating expenses*	
Examine productivity with a view to increasing output and reducing overtime costs involving casual staff.	Plans have been implemented to ensure that costs are contained.
Develop and implement a detailed marketing plan.	A marketing plan is being developed.
Review fixed-term contracts with printers to achieve cost savings.	To be implemented in the biennium 2004-2005.

15. The outsourcing of postal operations was found to be impractical. An international tender for the outsourcing of the Postal Administration operations elicited only one partial response, which sought a considerably higher cost than is required under the current arrangements. The recommendation for a single standardized philatelic magazine has been partially accepted, as peculiarities in the American and European markets require the issuance of two separate editions. However, text, layout and size will be standardized to the extent possible. The remaining seven recommendations are in varying stages of implementation.

16. Re-engineering and restructuring of the United Nations Postal Administration has begun, and some of the new initiatives have already showed positive results. Efforts have begun to streamline and consolidate the activities of the European offices. In September 2003, the Postal Administration in Vienna assumed most of the activities hitherto performed in Geneva. Critical activities of the Postal Administration in Geneva have been retained, given the still sizeable customer base of collectors of stamps denominated in Swiss francs, as well as to take advantage of the attractive agreement with the Swiss PTT for mail services. The reorganization of European operations will result in a net reduction of six General Service posts for the European offices, leading to annual savings of $627,000 in staff costs. Of the six staff members to be made redundant in Geneva, three have been redeployed. The remaining three will be paid agreed termination benefits. In this restructuring exercise, one post at the Professional level will also be available for redeployment elsewhere. The Global Office and the New York office will also be restructured in January 2004, resulting in the abolition of three Professional posts and one General Service post in the biennium 2004-2005.

17. Traditional discounts on the sale of stamps through various dealers have been suspended pending further review. Work carried out by casual workers paid on an hourly basis in New York has been rationalized, resulting in additional savings of $200,000 a year. Printing activities are being reviewed in order to achieve further cost savings and to reduce unnecessary inventory.

18. Product design activities have also been rationalized to incorporate cost-saving measures that include the standardization of artists' fees for product design and the use of gratis designs from non-profit organizations, such as the Lions Club, which recently donated art from the children's international competition based on the "Peace One Day" theme. Negotiations are also under way with the International Olympic Committee for cooperation on the World Heritage Series stamps on Greece, the release of which is scheduled to coincide with the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

19. In the area of advertisement and promotion, the publication of the Postal Administration's philatelic magazine will be reduced from the current six or seven issues annually to four issues, saving on production, printing and mailing expenses. The Postal Administration is in the process of revamping and integrating its United States and European web sites into one. The content of the new web site is expected to be in all six official languages of the United Nations and will permit online mail orders.

20. The renegotiation of agreements with postal authorities is under way. The United Nations Postal Administration has initiated negotiations with the postal authorities of Austria, Switzerland and the United States to curtail commercial bulk mailing using United Nations stamps. As mentioned above, bulk mailing by commercial entities that purchase old United Nations stamps at heavily discounted rates (the United Nations is required to reimburse postal authorities for the full face value of the stamps) is a major financial drain to the United Nations. The Swiss PTT will not accept bulk commercial mail from third parties using United Nations stamps as from 1 September 2003. Negotiations with the Austrian and United States postal authorities regarding bulk mail and discounts for mail carrying United Nations stamps are ongoing.

21. New marketing initiatives and the introduction of new philatelic products and price rationalization measures have been initiated, as follows:

(a) Excess inventory, which has traditionally been destroyed, has been cancelled and can no longer be used for mailing purposes, which would have resulted in face value reimbursements. Such inventory has instead been repackaged in-house into "fun packs". The fun packs feature mixed stamps and thematic series such as peace, human rights, women, flags and endangered species. These products are targeted primarily to young people as a starter pack for new collectors. Sale of the fun packs has been brisk. Discussions with a news and bookstore chain to market fun packs at major transport and tourist centres is at an advanced stage;

(b) Personalized stamps, which have proved to be popular and profitable in several countries, will be introduced at United Nations Headquarters in January 2004. A personalized stamp sheet will comprise 20 pre-printed stamps, each with an attached blank tab on which a photo of the customer could be digitally printed. The service is being outsourced through international competitive bidding to a contractor as a turnkey operation;

(c) The United Nations Postal Administration publishes a prestige booklet along with the issuance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage sites series of stamps. The 2003 issue features national parks in the United States of America. Special agreements have been reached with the United States Postal Service and concessionaires at featured national parks to market these series. In order to expand the market further, postal administrations in other countries have been encouraged to merchandise United Nations philatelic products on a trial basis. The initial response has been favourable.

F. Conclusions and recommendations

22. **The United Nations Postal Administration continues to play an important role in promoting the United Nations to the world through the issuance of stamps and other philatelic products.**

23. **Initiatives taken to reverse the downward trend in the revenues of the United Nations Postal Administration have already shown encouraging results. The operations are streamlined and the organizational structure is simpler and more effective. It is estimated that the negative financial trends of 2002 will be turned around and that the Postal Administration will achieve a modest surplus of $189,000 in the current biennium.**

24. **The Organization should begin gradually building a financial reserve to meet its contingent liabilities arising from the sale of stamps. The present arrangements whereby a net surplus from the revenue-producing activities under Income section 3, Services to the public, of the programme budget is used to help offset the expenditure part of the regular budget should be modified. The surplus should be credited to a reserve fund that would be established. These new arrangements should be initiated as from the biennium 2004-2005. If this proposal is accepted, any net revenue realized for the biennium 2004-2005 would, as an exception to financial rule 103.7, be retained at the close of the biennium for retention in a revenue account to be reflected in the closed final accounts.**

25. **The progress in the operations of the United Nations Postal Administration will be reported to the General Assembly in the context of budget performance reports. The Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and approve the proposal contained in paragraph 24.**

II. Status of work in the implementation of measures to strengthen the security and safety of United Nations premises

26. By its resolution 56/286 of 27 June 2002, the General Assembly decided to appropriate an amount of $57,785,300 (at initial appropriation rates) for the biennium 2002-2003 for the implementation of the measures contained in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises (A/56/848). The Assembly also endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/56/7/Add.9, para. 20) that the one-time provision of $44,861,400 proposed by the Secretary-General for upgrading the physical and security infrastructures be placed in a separate account to be administered in a manner similar to that in effect for accounts established for construction projects. It requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress in the implementation of the safety and security measures at the main part of its fifty-seventh session. A report on progress made in implementing those measures during the year 2002 and the status of expenditures as at 31 October 2002 was included in the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/57/616). The present report summarizes the work undertaken and/or planned by the Secretariat in implementation of the security measures during 2003. The status of appropriations and expenditures related to

strengthening the security and safety of the United Nations premises realized as at 31 October 2003 and/or projected for the rest of the year is summarized in table 3.

Table 3
Appropriation and expenditure related to security and safety, 2002-2003

Budget section		*Revised appropriation*	*Expenditure*[a]
16 Economic and social development in Africa		86 300	54 700
17 Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific		715 500	657 800
19 Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean		219 400	161 000
20 Economic and social development in Western Asia		1 035 400	950 800
27C Office of Human Resources Management		458 300	518 500
27D Office of Central Support Services		9 178 400	7 342 100
27E Administration, Geneva		2 315 500	1 252 900
27F Administration, Vienna		392 700	392 700
27G Administration, Nairobi		319 900	320 700
30 Special expenses		1 647 000	1 647 000
31 Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance: special account total[b]		42 592 800	14 073 000
Including:			
Headquarters	26 000 600	7 740 800	
Geneva	15 490 000	5 503 200	
Nairobi	521 000	520 900	
Addis Ababa	333 500	119 400	
Santiago	146 100	88 300	
Bangkok	101 600	100 400	
Total		**58 961 200**	**27 371 200**

[a] Actual expenditure to 31 October 2003 and projected expenditure for November and December.

[b] Expenditures reported under the construction-in-progress sub-account for security measures.

27. The progress made in the implementation of the measures to strengthen security and safety over the past 16 months is set out below. The information is presented by duty station.

A. United Nations Headquarters

Revised appropriation: $36,555,900
Expenditure: $16,520,000

28. The responsibility for implementing the approved measures was assigned to the Office of Central Support Services, the Office of Human Resources Management and the Office for the Capital Master Plan in their respective areas of operation.

Staff recruitment

29. *Office of Central Support Services.* All 36 additional security officer posts, 8 General Service (Other level) posts and 1 P-2 post for the planning officer approved for the Security and Safety Service are now encumbered. Five additional General Service (Other level) staff and four Trades and Crafts staff have also been hired against the respective additional posts approved for the Facilities Management Division.

30. *Office of Human Resources Management.* Two nurses have been hired against two additional posts approved for the Medical Services Division.

Operational requirements

31. *Office of Central Support Services.* Specific security-related plans on business recovery and continuation and on emergency and disaster management have been developed with the involvement of an outside expert. The specialized training programme for security and safety officers programmed for the present biennium has been fully implemented. Luminescent Exit signs have been installed along evacuation passages in the premises as planned. Staff at large and delegates located at Headquarters have been trained in evacuation procedures. The replacement of grounds passes for delegates and staff in the context of a global United Nations standard identification system has begun. The replacement of the passes will be completed by the end of 2003, and the new system will become fully operational at Headquarters effective January 2004.

32. Incoming mail was irradiated during the biennium until August 2003. Following an evaluation of the risk of mail contamination, irradiation was discontinued effective September 2003. Incoming mail will continue to be tested for anthrax throughout the biennium. Various specialized security equipment, supplies and materials for the security and safety programme have been procured as required.

33. *Office of Human Resources Management.* The Medical Services Division has completed its acquisition of emergency medical supplies and has created a stock of specific medications at Headquarters to respond to a biohazard emergency as planned. In addition, the Division has purchased a stock of vaccines.

Infrastructure security projects

34. It should be recalled that the $26.0 million provision for infrastructure security projects included the $17.0 million for security improvements originally envisaged in the capital master plan (A/55/117 and Add.1). The implementation of those projects began without delay. In 2003, upon the establishment of the Office for the Capital Master Plan, the responsibility for implementation of all security and safety

infrastructure projects was transferred to that office to better integrate them with the implementation of the capital master plan.

35. Out of 16 projects identified in the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/848, annex I, para. 40) 2 projects, namely, installation of blast-proof trash receptacles and installation of a landline connection from the off-site Pass and Identification Unit to the Secretariat building have been completed. The remaining projects are at various stages of implementation.

36. The Office for the Capital Master Plan and the Office of Central Support Services have established a task team under the chairmanship of the Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services to ensure close coordination of efforts on security and safety projects. The Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Internal Oversight Services participate in regular briefings and reviews of work in progress. Periodic videoconferences are conducted with the main offices away from Headquarters to ensure that all parties are aware of work in progress to strengthen security and safety at all locations and to share lessons learned.

37. The design concept of the security and safety infrastructure projects focuses on perimeter protection for the Headquarters complex, supported by an electronic access control system. The concept and the measures proposed to implement it reflect threat assessments, a security strategy in line with the Organization's emergency preparedness plan, feedback from a conference of security experts convened in New York in October 2002 and inputs from the Facilities Management Division and the Security and Safety Service received in the course of the biennium, as well as the application of recognized industry and government standards. The Office of Central Support Services, notably the Security and Safety Service, the Information Technology Services Division and the Facilities Management Division, are closely involved in the development of design criteria and specifications. Particular attention is being paid to ensuring that the projects are integrated with the contract under the capital master plan that deals with security initiatives.

38. Design development for the security and safety projects began in November 2002. The design and construction documents were completed in June 2003 and bids for construction were invited in the same month. The deadline for the receipt of formal bids was mid-September 2003. Following the review of proposals, which is currently in progress, the contracts for construction and installation will be awarded in November 2003, in addition to contracts for construction administration and management. Construction and installation will begin in November 2003 and is scheduled to last approximately 10 months, followed by a two-month period for commissioning and operation start-up.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

Revised appropriation: $17,805,500
Expenditure: $7,351,500

39. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

40. *Staff recruitment.* Out of the 15 additional posts authorized, 1 P-4 post for the Deputy Chief of the Security and Safety Section, 1 General Service (Principal level) post for a fire, biohazard and rescue specialist and 3 General Service (Other level)

posts for security officers have been filled. The remaining 9 General Service posts for security officers are currently encumbered by short-term staff. These posts are under active recruitment and will be filled by the end of 2003.

41. *Operational requirements and infrastructure projects.* The new projects covered under the additional appropriation for strengthening security and safety were integrated with the security projects already approved within the programme budget under section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance. Three of these projects (i.e., construction of a security control and visitor reception building at the Pregny gate; installation of protected doors, additional window shutters and additional electronic access controls; and erection of fencing in various areas of the compound to create an internal buffer zone) are in different stages of implementation. The installation of protected doors and additional window shutters has been postponed to a later stage in order to reassess their technical feasibility. To date, expenditures totalling $2,309,863 have been incurred against the related appropriation of $2.4 million. With regard to the newly authorized security projects detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 41), there is a general delay in their implementation. A technical study for the control centre project is being finalized. Construction work related to the Chemin de Fer gate began only in the third quarter of 2003, owing to a delay in obtaining the necessary authorizations from the local authorities for processing the project. This project is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2004.

42. With regard to the other authorized security projects, detailed below, the authorizations from the local authorities needed to proceed with construction have not yet been received:

(a) Relocation of mail and pouch shipping and receiving operations out of the current location in the inner secretariat courtyard, including construction of premises and installation of equipment;

(b) Construction at the Pregny gate, which includes the construction of a building for security control and visitor reception. So far, an underground study has been completed for the purpose of testing whether the site is suitable for erecting the proposed building.

43. The project to provide blast protection to oversized glazed facades, especially around the Assembly building, the Honour courtyard and the E building, has been postponed, subject to the reassessment of the cost of the overall project.

44. The project to improve underground garage area protection through the provision of additional access controls, video surveillance devices and increased lighting, as well as the implementation of the first phase of the intermediate area surveillance system (outside parking and lighting), have been rescheduled for implementation in the biennium 2004-2005 as a part of the second phase of improving the security of the United Nations Office at Geneva premises.

C. United Nations Office at Vienna

Revised appropriation: $392,700
Expenditure: $392,700

45. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

46. *Staff recruitment.* Two newly established security officer posts had been filled by October 2002. Of the four approved temporary security officer posts, two were filled in July 2003. The remaining two temporary security officers will be recruited in November 2003 at a time when the asbestos removal project will begin.

47. *Infrastructure project.* After the completion of the negotiations on the cost-sharing of the perimeter fence construction project, the organizations based at the Vienna International Centre in July 2003 finalized the procurement process (project documents, tendering, bid evaluation and contracting). Construction work began in August 2003 and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003.

D. United Nations Office at Nairobi

Revised appropriation: $840,900
Expenditure: $875,900

48. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

49. *Operational requirements and infrastructure projects.* Various security and safety items (bulletproof vests, search mirrors, baggage scanners, walk-through metal detectors and two four-wheel-drive vehicles for the Security and Safety Section) have been procured as planned. The remaining items (firefighting suits and oxygen bottles) have been purchased, and their delivery is expected by the end of 2003. An offer to provide a firetruck was reviewed and reconsidered because the purchase would have exceeded available funds. Tenders are also being evaluated for mail-screening equipment, metal detectors and biohazard equipment. This equipment is expected to be delivered by the end of 2003. Implementation of the security-related infrastructure projects detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 42) is in progress. However, the installation of gates and barriers, a perimeter fence, lighting and alarm systems and closed-circuit television and other control room equipment was delayed for some time owing to the fact that the tenders that were evaluated exceeded the funds available. The funding issue has been resolved through internal redeployment. The projects are now scheduled to be completed at the end of 2003.

E. Economic Commission for Africa

Revised appropriation: $1,020,400
Expenditure: $774,700

50. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

51. *Operational requirements and infrastructure projects.* Training and procurement components of the approved programme have been completed as planned. The design of the security-related infrastructure projects as detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 43) (the construction of a small building

for the registration of conference participants, modification of the perimeter wall and the installation of a wrought-iron fence and a public address system) has been completed. The construction work is expected to begin at the end of 2003 and be completed by mid-2004.

F. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Revised appropriation: $817,100
Expenditure: $758,200

52. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

53. *Staff recruitment*. Of the 30 newly established security officer posts, 25 have been filled. The remaining five posts will be filled by the end of December 2003.

54. *Operational requirements and infrastructure projects*. The training programme for the new security and safety staff commenced in 2003 and it is expected to continue in the next biennium. Procurement for a security vehicle, bulletproof vests and illuminated mirrors to screen vehicle undercarriages has been completed, and funds have been obligated for the procurement of firearms. Permission from the host Government to import these items has not yet been granted. The security-related infrastructure projects detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 44) (securing mail and pouch operations, expansion of closed-circuit television monitoring and installation of infrared motion detectors) have been implemented. The relocation of the mail and pouch operations will be completed in December 2003.

G. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Revised appropriation: $487,900
Expenditure: $371,700

55. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

56. *Staff recruitment*. Five security officer posts have been filled. The recruitment process continues, and it is expected that the remaining four new security officer posts will be filled by December 2003.

57. *Operational requirements and infrastructure projects*. Acquisition of X-ray and other security-related equipment and implementation of the infrastructure projects detailed in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 45) have been completed, except the construction of new premises for the Security and Safety Unit. The construction of these premises within the compound has been considered jointly with the project for the construction of additional office facilities in the North Building in Santiago, which was approved by the General Assembly in its decision 57/578 of 20 December 2002. The construction will be implemented in 2004.

H. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Revised appropriation: $1,040,800
Expenditure: $956,200

58. The activities undertaken thus far are summarized below.

59. *Staff recruitment*. All 21 additional security officer posts had been filled by January 2003.

60. *Operational requirements and infrastructure projects*. Training courses in firearms, first aid, security management and firefighting, planned for the current biennium, have been conducted for the security staff. This training will continue in the biennium 2004-2005. The acquisition of hands-free communication equipment has been completed. Several security improvements have been made to the premises (blast-proof glass lamination, video surveillance in the garage and on the roof and upgrading of the public address system) have also been completed, as planned. The plans for installation of a bulletproof glass fence and gate at the main entrance and the installation of special lighting on the perimeter wall were reformulated and then implemented by mid-2003. The construction of a separate screening building for visitors received approval from the host-country authorities in August 2003 and has been initiated. It is expected to be completed in early 2004.

I. Conclusions

61. **The approved programme for strengthening the security and safety of the United Nations premises has been nearly completed at the United Nations Offices at Vienna and Nairobi, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. At the remaining three duty stations (Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Economic Commission for Africa), programme implementation is at an earlier phase, with the Economic Commission for Africa leading in the implementation of its projects and the United Nations Office at Geneva remaining at an early stage owing to a delay in obtaining permission from the local authorities to carry out its projects.**